

Bridgeport, Connecticut, December 17, 1892

Dear Folks,

As it is drawing near to Christmas again, so our hearts feel drawn nearer to the dear ones far away from us, and we think of you all with love and kind wishes. How good it would seem if we could all be together on Christmas day. But we must make the most of the privilege of writing.

I would like to feel in a merrier mood to write a Christmas letter but the time is short and I must write now. This is the first day I have worked for a week. Was taken down week ago Sat. with Neuralgia and was very sick for a while and very weak afterward. But God is good and He raised me up again, to work a little longer.

Yesterday Carl got up to the table and took the ammonia bottle that stood there and drank some of it; it took the skin off his mouth and throat so he couldn't swallow nor make a loud noise. He can drink a little milk today so we think he will get well again.

Louisa keeps up bravely as she always does, but she is not as strong as she ought to be to do so much work. So you see we feel rather sober just now, although we feel to praise the Lord that he has been so good to us and that we are all alive and well as we are.

We are somewhat disappointed too that we cannot follow our usual custom of sending a little Christmas gift to each of you. But will have to be content this time with sending our love, and good wishes. I long for the time when our sleeping ones shall wake, and together with them we shall dwell on the new earth; we won't have to celebrate Christmas then for Christ will be with us and we shall know him and see him as he is. God grant we may all prove faithful and watch and wait for Jesus coming that our lamps may be filled and burning. It is a glorious prospect that of living in a land where "sorrow and sighing shall flee away" and where there shall be no more pain nor sickness nor death. Perhaps some of us may have to go to sleep a little while before Jesus comes but the waking will be grand if we sleep in Jesus.

Did you ever notice how many verses in the N.T. refer to Christ's 2<sup>nd</sup> coming? About one verse in every twenty-five. Did you ever notice when the righteous are to be rewarded and the wicked punished? Always when Jesus comes.

Did you ever find the place where it says rewards or punishment come at death? If what you call the Soul, should die, don't you suppose God could raise it up as well as the body. Do you know that "the wages of sin is Death," but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord. Oh! There are so many grand and beautiful truths to be found in a careful study of God's word, and so that grand man Luther found. How long he was getting a very few of the precious truths, and how far he was from getting all there was to get. It is so beautiful to get out into the light and liberty of the Gospel, that my pen and my thoughts run lively when started. Well, God bless and keep you all. It took me a long time to put away all my old teachings that were contrary to the bible so I must have patience and hope that you too will be willing to let in the light – and see how much more blessed it is to look to Jesus to bring us Eternal Life than to look to that grim monster Death, who would rob Christ of his glory by claiming to set us free, Acts 24.14 -13-16.

Glory to God for his goodness and mercy.

Love to all,

Vinton

This is for Annie too with our love.